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have you considered the
noise hazards? See article
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Journal Jottings

The first article in this issue of
the Journal is the result of a bribe.
Months ago, Peter Havard, a
student in Agricultural Engineering,
came into the office to borrow a
tape recorder for an extended period
of time. He'd duly report in every
month to see if it were possible
to keep the recorder "just a little
longer." Finally I asked what he
was doing and, when he told me, I
said that he could keep the
machine indefinitely provided I
could see his final report.
Eventually the tape recorder was
returned followed some weeks
later by a large report entitled
"Noise Pollution of Farm Tractors
in Agriculture." Though too long
for our use, it was interesting,
informative reading. We couldn't
use the report but we could and did
interview Peter and Professor
Eric Norris of the Department of

Agricultural Engineering. It's
quiet-time reading with a message
that comes out loud and clear —
there are serious noise hazards
on the farm about which every
farmer should be concerned.

In a lighter vein, we hope women
do not constitute a noise hazard
but, this being International
Women's Year, perhaps women
are being a little more vocal.
And why not? If any long-range
benefits come from this con-
centrated exposure to the problems
and benefits of being a woman,
then it will be worth-while for
it is true that women through the
centuries have often had to fight
to achieve the same rights that
were just naturally assumed by
men.

Graduating student, Marilyn Rabin
of the School of Food Science,

in this issue, takes a look
backwards at the historical attitudes
and slow emancipation of women.
In Part II, next month, she will
look at women's current struggle
to be accepted at management
levels of industry, government, and
other institutions. The benefits
derived from having women in
positions of authority should be
so obvious as to make the struggle
unnecessary. Possibly that is
what International Women's Year
might prove.

Personally I dislike setting aside
a day, a week, a month, or a year
for a specific purpose. As an
example, early last month there was
a National Be Kind to Animals
Week. Does that mean that it was
quite permissible for me to kick
the dog the following Monday
morning?

Hazel M. Clarke

"Who makes the money on food?"
"Not us," say the supermarkets.
"Not us," say the food processors.
"Not us," say the farmers. So
who is making money on food?
Somebody has to be or else it
wouldn't be produced in our
private enterprise economy.

These were the types of questions recently posed by a United States Senate agricultural committee to representatives of the food and agriculture industry. The investigators were trying to find out why retail food prices skyrocket when farm prices increase and come down so slowly when farm prices fall. During the past year food prices have increased 11 per cent at the retail level yet have decreased seven per cent at the farm level.

The industry representatives were only too cooperative in disclosing their company's figures on costs and profits for the past year. They invited the investigators to come to their plants to study their records further. Generally these records showed that from a management standpoint the gross profit on beef sales was less than a year ago even though retail prices of beef are about the same

level as a year ago while farm prices have decreased.

Meat packers told about the same story. They report that wholesale meat sales are up 10 to 20 per cent while their net profits are about half of what they were a year ago.

So where is all the price differential between the farm and retail levels going? The answer to this is increased costs. The food processors and retailers are paying everybody more except the farmer. They're paying him less! They are paying higher wages, higher equipment costs, higher freight costs, higher marketing costs. And industry is paying these higher costs because workers and suppliers have the ability and power to make them pay. Everyone, that is, except for the farmer. And this is basically why the farmer's share of the food dollar has been decreasing instead of increasing.

One major food processor reported that their payroll is now close to 15 per cent of sales and they recently accepted a three-year labour settlement which will cost

them fifteen million dollars the first year alone — equal to their total net earnings the previous year. Labour's increasing share of the food dollar has been brought about by the ability of organized labour to get what they ask for. And their share of the food dollar is going to get even larger in the future because they know they can get a larger share. Meanwhile the farmer's share is likely going to decrease unless he does something about it. This doesn't mean that farmers should necessarily follow the tactics of other tradesmen who have become unionized. But it does mean that farmers are going to have to take an even more active part in the marketing of grain, milk, beef, pork, poultry, etc. Unless farmers are willing to organize the production and marketing of their products to a greater extent than they already have they are probably going to hand over their share of the consumer food dollar to those groups who can.

Gordon Bachman

Noise Hazards in Agriculture

(Professor Eric Norris of the Department of Agricultural Engineering assisted fifth-year student Peter Havard with a project which examined the potential hazards of the high noise levels to which farmers are exposed. Hazel Clarke, for the Macdonald Journal, discussed this subject with them recently. Questions will appear in italics.)

Before discussing tractors in particular, could we just generally discuss the noise problems a farmer encounters.

Peter Havard: The farmer encounters noise from any vibrating machinery which, besides tractors, can be combines, choppers, mowers, shop tools such as chain saws, driers for his corn, fans in his barns. However, the tractor is the major contributor to the noise exposure of the farmer.

Professor Eric Norris: The tractor has received the most attention as far as research work is concerned, but there are all these other sources of noise that really haven't been fully investigated. Even the few studies that have been done on them indicate that there is a serious problem. The manufacturers now are doing their best to alleviate noise problems in tractors, but there isn't even any basic data about how high a noise level is associated with a forage chopper or a feed grinder or a mix mill, for example.

Have they worked with tractors because the farmers spends most of his working hours on that machine?

Professor Norris: I think this is probably the case and also tractors account for such a large percentage

of the machinery manufacturers' business that they rate top priority.

Is there evidence that farmers are suffering hearing losses?

Peter Havard: Yes, but one of the problems in this area is the farmer's acceptance that there is a problem. Most of the time hearing loss is written off as an earache, wax in the ear, a cold or something stuffing up his head. It usually takes a period of 20 years or so before any serious damage is done. It is not something that occurs after one day out in the field. So it is a matter of accepting that there is a problem and it isn't just something that you have to live with.

Professor Norris: Once the damage is done, it's done. There is a certain portion of hearing loss which is irreversible in some cases. The problem that arises is that the farmer doesn't really experience problems until he has worked for several years — maybe two or three decades — and then he finds that he has trouble hearing in the speech range. This is a real problem. If he can't hear well in the speech range, then communication difficulties develop. It's not as serious, although it is something we should worry about, that some of his music appreciation ability, for instance, is lost at the other frequency ranges. Generally it is in the late middle-aged farmer where these hearing losses start to show up.

There may be some recovery of hearing if the high noise levels are avoided for a lengthy period of time, but there is usually some irreversible damage, depending upon the intensity of the sound to

which the farmer has been exposed and the duration of his exposure.

Peter Havard: People can get used to noise but the ear mechanism cannot. It is not something to which you can suddenly develop an immunity. It only gets worse.

Professor Norris: The real problem here is that there is not that much data available for agricultural workers. The industrial situation is reasonably well documented because it is easy to do so. The noise level in a factory is reasonably constant and a worker is exposed to it for 7½ to 8 hours per day. The farmer is on and off the tractor and in and out of noisy environments such as his feed-mixing room. He may go for weeks without being involved in noisy operations. The only agricultural data come from places such as western Canada where you do have men whose sole job for some reasonably long period is driving a tractor or a combine or something of that nature. There you can get some data. This is because, as we said before, hearing loss develops over a long period of time — long meaning months and years — of exposure to high intensity sound.

To change the subject for a moment, what about teenagers' appreciation of loud music?

Peter Havard: It has been found that using earphones could be very serious because you can get loudness of up to 110 or 120 decibels in your ears, which in close proximity to your ear may cause serious damage within a number of years. But normally just speakers in a fair-sized room won't cause serious damage. There could be a certain amount of hearing loss if a person

was exposed to loud music over a very long duration.

Professor Norris: A word of caution. I think that the very thing that teenagers are enjoying may hurt them in their later years because my guess is that their loss of hearing, if any, would occur in the higher frequency ranges and there's where your music appreciation comes in. I have done some limited tests in the lab and my hearing cuts out at about 14,000 Hertz which is high enough to still enjoy good music but I certainly don't need to buy the best speakers for my stereo system.

How would a farmer know if he has a hearing loss?

Peter Havard: His local doctor or an ear specialist can give him a simple test using an audiometer which relates his hearing to a standard level. The doctor can determine the hearing losses the farmer has in the speech frequencies by finding the difference in the designated standard and the record hearing level. A serious hearing loss is considered a 15dB difference at a specific frequency.

Professor Norris: If the farmer gets a physical every year or two, it wouldn't hurt to have the test as part of his physical examination.

Peter, would you explain the function of the ear and the effects of different levels of noise and duration of noise on hearing ability?

Peter Havard: Basically, the ear consists of three major components — the outer ear, the middle ear, and the inner ear. The outer ear consists of the skin around the

ear and the auditory canal. Sound, which is a fluctuation in pressure, travels down the canal to an eardrum, the boundary between the outer ear and the middle ear, where it causes vibration of the eardrum. The sound is transmitted by this mechanical movement of the eardrum and travels across the middle ear by a chain of three bones that vibrate to the eardrum which in turn vibrate the wall of the inner ear. The inner ear is filled with fluid which goes into motion with the vibration of the wall of the inner ear. The fluid motion stimulates tiny auditory hairs on the walls of the inner ear which due to motion send out electronic impulses to nerve endings which send impulses to the central nervous system.

Now where permanent damage occurs is in the changing of the composition of the fluid or the fatiguing and loss of sensitivity of the hairs in the inner ear. This can be because of exposure of sound over a long period causing excessive movement of the hairs and the fluid.

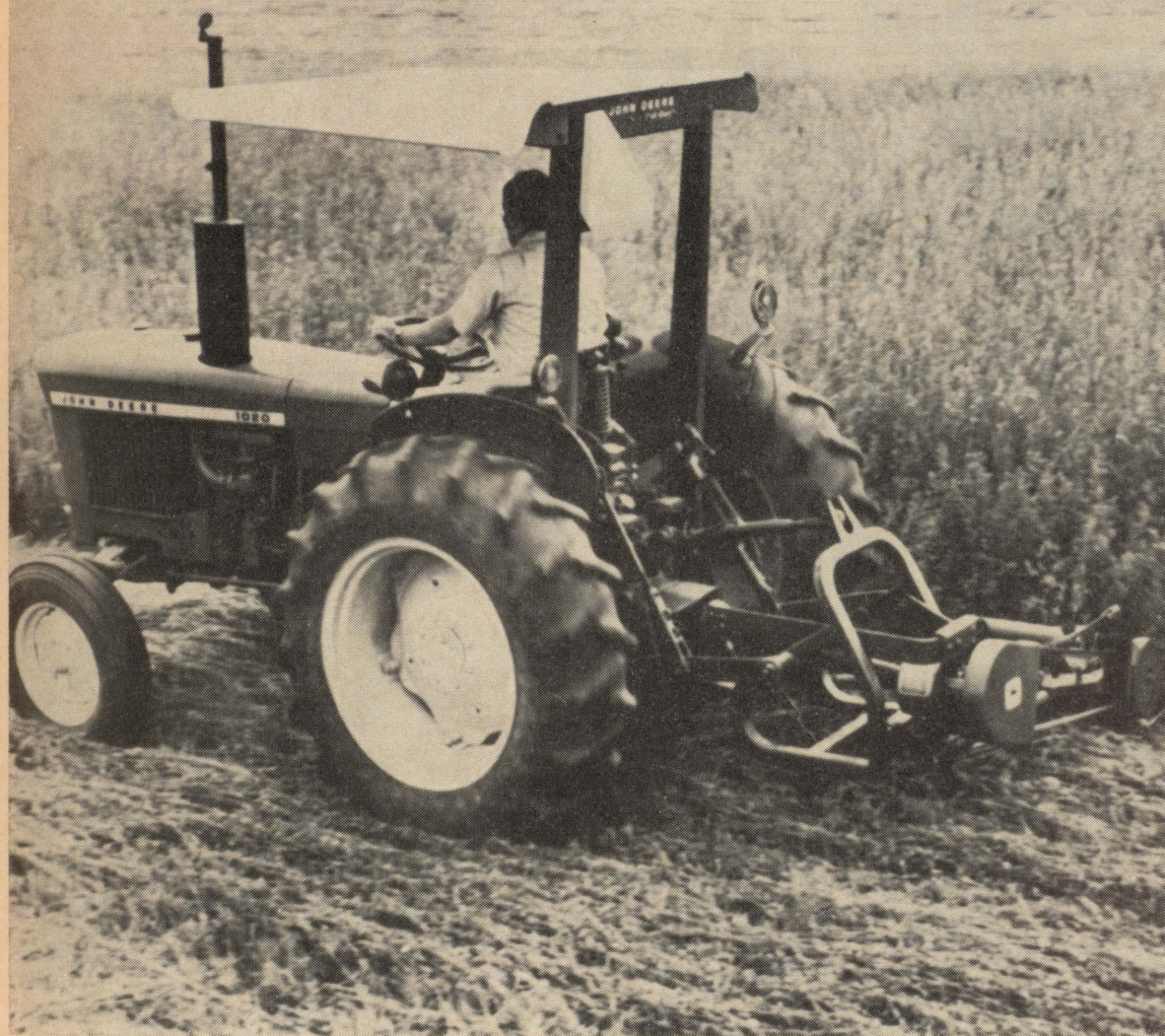
Professor Norris: There is some recovery after heavy exposure to high intensity sound, but the longer the exposure the more irreversible damage. Possibly this would be a good time to explain some of the terms we've been using.

The decibel is a unit used by engineers, physicists, and physiologists to define the intensity or the strength or loudness of the sound to which we are exposed. A complex kind of formula is used to make this measurement, but basically we can lay down some bench marks for people to use.

Zero decibels is the threshold of hearing. That is the lowest possible sound level that a very good ear could hear. Ten decibels would be the light rustling of leaves, 50 would be the sound level of an average conversation, 80 would be a loud radio playing in the living room, 90 would be the sound level of a noisy factory, and 110 or 120 decibels would be the sound level a person would experience standing beside a jack hammer operator or a riveter. I believe the sound level experienced by the men out in front of the jet engines at the airport is somewhere in the level of 130 to 140 decibels.

Peter Havard: A 10-decibel rise in noise is generally a doubling of its loudness.

Professor Norris: The term frequency indicates the rapidity at which the sound oscillations occur. In other words, the higher the frequency, the higher the pitch of the sound. Now normal conversation goes up to a range of around 4,000 Hertz — Hertz being the short form for cycles per second. The frequency of the overtones in a good violin in a symphony orchestra might be in the range of 12,000 to 17,000 Hertz. This divides the frequency into two rough ranges. There is the speech range which is very important to preserve so that people can communicate. If there is hearing loss in the upper ranges, it is unfortunate in that people can't appreciate good music, but they can at least carry on their every day business. Unfortunately, many of the machines involved in agriculture emit high intensity noise in the frequency range associated with speech. And that over periods of time tends to im-



pair the hearing in that range, especially the 2,000 Hertz range.

Let's get down to tractors now. Which parts of the machine emit the most noise and under what circumstances?

Peter Havard: The usual circumstances for the loudest tractor is around 75 per cent of rated horsepower, which is the normal loading of the tractor during heavy operations. Most of the noise comes from the exhaust and engine. The next biggest offenders are the fenders, vibration through the transmission, the engine walls, resonance between the gas tank and the engine hood, the injector pump, the hydraulic pump, and the air intake standard. These are all on non-cab tractors. Cab tractors tend to eliminate the noise from the injector pumps, the hydraulic pumps, the air intake, and the fenders, but,

up until the new designs, they tended to magnify the exhaust noise, the floor noise, and the cab walls tended to vibrate the noise from the exhaust. Airborne noise vibrates the walls if they are not properly mounted. The roof, the steering column and the floor pedals carry engine noise contributing in cab noise in the older designs. In newer cab tractors the noise tends to be mostly airborne coming through the windows and any holes in the vehicle. The new tractors tend to eliminate the resonating inside the cab with insulation and slanting walls.

Professor Norris: Just a historical kind of comment here. The tractor manufacturers are following the trend in agriculture by giving the farmer what he wants and needs in today's world, that is, larger

horsepower units. The problem, of course, is that machinery like anything else in our world evolves. With this evolution into larger horsepower tractors has naturally come higher noise levels. And this has become a problem in the past few years. Coupled with this, we had increased concern with agricultural machinery safety. Roll-over protection for farmers has been introduced around the world. It is mandatory in Europe and soon will be in North America, we hope. The problem here was that roll-over protection came in a variety of forms. First there was a simple roll bar. The manufacturers added a sun shade to this which in itself turned out to be a resonating panel that amplified noise. The next step was a cab to provide more comfort for the farmer. And it did as far as his creature comforts of temperature control and dust elimination, but noise wasn't con-



sidered in the first instance. Now this has been looked at. Only in the past five years or so have the Nebraska tests included a test for noise level for the operator or for persons stationed near the tractor. I am not trying to make the manufacturers the villains of the piece here at all. They have been caught in this situation of machinery that evolves, and they adjusted their designs to meet new requirements. Noise problems didn't appear as a great problem until it was a relatively big problem. One of the things that should be emphasized is that these newer cabs, on which the manufacturers are doing a good job with sound

Look for slanting walls, good insulation, and clear visibility in a cab tractor.

insulation and reasonably air-tight seals around them, are only as good as the operator. A friend of mine owns a large horsepower tractor with which he operates a two-row forage chopper. In order to better hear the forage chopper he opened the back window of the cab. The forage chopper is a high-noise level

machine. He had his head cocked to one side to listen to the sound of the forage chopper, and over a period of about five years he lost a considerable amount of his hearing in that one ear. He was literally putting himself inside a resonance chamber with a side open to a high intensity noise source.

Peter Havard: It should also be noted that manufacturers of non-cab tractors have done very little to reduce the noise levels. They are still over the standards set by industry by a considerable amount. Industrial standards are around 90 decibels for an eight-hour day while tractors being produced are over 95 to 100 decibels.

Professor Norris: Yes, your tests indicated that the operator was experiencing at least 95 decibels around his head on non-cab tractors and the farmer quite often works longer than an eight-hour day on his tractor.

If some of these noises can't be eliminated then how can they be muffled? Could we discuss tractors without cabs and those with them? What should the manufacturer do? What can the farmer do with his present machine to eliminate some of the noise and what should he look for when buying a new machine?

Peter Havard: Let's start with what a farmer can do with his present machine. If he has a cab tractor that has been acoustically treated, he should respect the design of the tractor and keep the windows closed, the doors shut, and use his air conditioning, because it is all part of the design of the tractors to completely seal out the noise from the outer environment. On the non-cab tractors or with the older cab tractors that have not been treated, he can put fibre-glass sheeting inside the engine walls or on the fire wall. In the older cab tractors, especially, he can install rubber floor mats. He can rubber mount his steering column to try to reduce the amount of vibration coming through it as well as the clutch and brake pedals on the floor. He should put an acoustical foam on the walls and ceilings of the cab. Muffler noise can be reduced by focusing the noise slightly away from the tractor by putting on a snubber arrangement which directs the sound for-

ward and away from him. Or he can put an extension on the muffler and raise it right above his cab so that the noise is directed more over his position than it would otherwise be.

When looking at a new machine, he should look at the mountings on the engine and the cab. Look at the design of the cab. The visibility is certainly very important because if he did have to open the windows to see what he was doing, then he would be defeating the whole purpose of noise reduction in the cab. He should see whether it is acoustically treated and check the air tightness of the cab itself. A comfortable level for conversation in a cab is generally a good indication that the noise level itself is safe. The farmer can get a more accurate indication of the noise levels of various tractors by checking the results of the Nebraska field tests.

A thought here. When you mentioned the sound-proof cabs, shouldn't a farmer be able to hear what is going on outside?

Professor Norris: This is exactly the problem. The farmer uses the sound of what is going on around him as one of his inputs to operate the machine. The sound of a combine is an important input to his operation. If the cylinder starts to slow down drastically, his first indication that this is occurring is a change in pitch of the sound from the machine, and he uses that information to slow the feed of material to the machine. Without that, he is not going to be able to operate the machine properly. And so we are in this quandary of wanting to protect his hearing but, if we over protect his hearing, we end up

impairing his ability to operate the machine properly. My solution to this would be an engineering solution. I would suggest putting the farmer in a sound-proof cab and then feeding him the sound that he wants to hear; that is, put a directional microphone on the outside of the cab to listen to the machine that he is operating and feed that to him through earphones. This is obviously something in the future and it is going to cost money.

I would assume that normal everyday maintenance of a machine must also play a part in this.

Professor Norris: Yes, a farmer, just from an economic standpoint, should maintain all his machinery in a good state of repair. Preventive maintenance is well worth its cost in terms of repair costs and fuel saved. But if an engine is out of tune and vibrates more, it is going to produce more noise. If a tractor is not kept shipshape, anything loose will vibrate more and the result will be a noisier environment for the operator. This is just one of the side effects of poor maintenance.

What are the pros and cons of the different types of ear protectors?

Peter Havard: There are three basic types of ear protectors — ear plugs, semi-inserts, and earmuffs. Earmuffs can be combined with helmets, too. However, helmets are not generally worn in agriculture.

Should they be?

Professor Norris: It would combine the advantages of noise protection and the hard hat. Frankly, just as

a side note, I would recommend that all farmers wear hard hats when they are working. It is just as hazardous an occupation as a lot of industrial situations.

Peter Havard: Ear plugs can be almost anything. They can be a piece of cotton or wool or they can be a rubber insert. They are usually solid and there is no interference with head covering. They are light, cheap, and are easy to carry around. They can be very difficult to fit properly in the ear, plus the wool and cotton ones can leave bits of material in the ear which can lead to infection. And they are uncomfortable to wear over a long period of time.

The semi-insert is a moulded plastic or rubber which usually has some sort of universal fit. This is possible because there is a hole directly down the centre of the insert allowing air flow in the ear. The semi-insert has a sound chamber inside it which absorbs most of the sound and eliminates the dangerous high frequencies.

One trouble with the semi-insert is that it usually requires some kind of support around the ear to hold it in properly, and this may have to be maintained by adjusting it occasionally. It must be sterilized regularly; otherwise it may be a source for ear infection. Semi-inserts, too, are usually found uncomfortable over long periods of time in the field. This seems to be the standard problem with all types of ear protectors.

Another problem with ear protectors is that very little study has been done on exactly what they do for you. They may be just

eliminating some of the non-dangerous sounds and letting other ones in. Proper information should be marked on the product and the purchaser made aware of the harmful sound regions.

The earmuff is an external protector. There is a lot of variation in price. The expensive ones tend to be fluid filled and are extremely effective — much more so than the semi-inserts or the plugs. A well-fitting pair of earmuffs can be very comfortable. However, sometimes they may drown out some of the noises you want to hear with your machinery. They can be hot and a bit bulky and are sometimes easily left at home, because they are a problem to carry around.

Professor Norris: It is sort of a nuisance factor. I know I am inviting a storm of outrage from that part of our population that likes to maintain their own liberties, but I think that if a tractor requires the wearing of earmuffs, then the operator should wear them. I am of the same opinion regarding seat belts on tractors and in automobiles. If it is necessary for your safety, you should wear them. I don't believe that you can put your own liberty above the risk of some kind of damage to your health, particularly in a society which has social medicine. You are being quite irresponsible if you don't use all the proper and available methods of maintaining your health and well being in a society which is bearing the cost of your foolishness if you don't do that.

Peter Havard: I think the manufacturers are recognizing this to an extent. In England, for instance, Massey Ferguson has started giving a set of earmuffs with their new-

tractors. It shows recognition of the problem and offers a simple solution.

Professor Norris: The only addition to that is that they should chain them to the tractor because these things tend to get thrown into the corner of the shed.

Peter, would you tell us how you did your research and some of your conclusions?

Peter Havard: My research here at Macdonald College was on the development of a method of examining this noise problem. It was originally set out to develop relationships of the sound intensity with the frequency of tractor noise. However, most of my work was done during the winter which limited me greatly to the operations I could examine. Most of my data came from stationary tractors under load. I recorded the noise, measured the overall sound level and related this to present studies that have been done to compare hearing losses to tractor noise. By comparing three tractors — one with a canopy, one with a fairly old cab and the same model tractor without a cab — I found that two of the three tractors, the one with the canopy and the one with the cab, actually created dangerous sound levels that would impede comprehension in the speech frequencies over an estimated 20-year period. The critical level developed in the tractor was in the 2,000 Hertz range which is right in the middle of the speech area.

Professor Norris: This is quite expected, actually, because that is the range of the engine speed. Unfortunately, it coincides with the frequency of our normal everyday

conversation. The main reason why Peter got into this study for his senior project was that we wanted to get some methodology developed here and some experience in sound level around agricultural machinery. We used tractors because they were readily available even though tractor noise has been studied at other places. We hope we can now use this methodology to measure sound levels and analyse the frequency spectrum of this sound for other machines. As well, there are para-agricultural occupations where there are noisy machines — landscape gardening and golf course maintenance, for instance. We have a leaf sweeper that goes around the Campus in the fall picking up leaves. They are common all over the country in parks and golf courses. The noise level in that kind of a giant vacuum cleaner is very high and there are men working beside them from dawn to dusk.

And as a sidenote, the housewife isn't safe from high, loud noise levels either. Some of her equipment has sound intensities that are in the dangerous range. Some brands of the household blender have a high frequency, high intensity noise which is above the standard where in industry they would not allow an operator to work with that machine for more than 15 minutes to half an hour per day. Fortunately very few housewives work for half an hour with their blender every day year in, year out. Again, some brands of vacuum cleaners are noisy, but I don't think the housewife is in as dangerous a position.

Any concluding thoughts?

Peter Havard: The farmer should recognize that he has potential

problems all around him and maybe many of these problems can be solved with preventive maintenance, or the simple adding of an earmuff or ear plug to his wardrobe.

Professor Norris: The farmer should try to concern himself with this. It's just another one of the many problems he faces but it is his own welfare. Unfortunately, it's an insidious kind of thing. You know that the sound is awfully high but say, "I'll ignore it. It will soon be over — in a few minutes, a few hours, a few days, a few months." It takes a long time for hearing loss to occur, but once it has occurred the recovery is relatively small, even if you take away the cause of the hearing loss.

Noise must also affect the level of efficiency.

Peter Havard: I was going to mention that this whole thing may be an argument for cab tractors, because at the moment it is the simplest and most comfortable way to reduce the noise levels. It is not only hearing loss, but there is the physical fatigue due to the eardrums being in constant motion and vibrating. Under these conditions there is a continuous stream of impulses sent to the brain with nothing being processed so you're constantly alert, until fatigue sets in.

Professor Norris: The fact is that you have one of your senses continually overstimulated. Noise is exhausting!

Peter Havard: And this causes irritability, trouble with solving problems, steering problems. Your reactions can be slowed down to

problems coming up. Some researchers have noticed that people have problems even getting a good, deep sleep after heavy exposure during the day, and this has been proven through electroencephalograms.

One thing that might be important for government in the future is to also recognize that there is a problem and lay down standards of noise levels for manufacturers. The Canadian Labour Code applies to all employees under the farmer but does not apply to the farmer. At the moment the farmer is not protected by any legislation. With increasing farm mechanization, noise exposure without control may become a very serious problem.

Professor Norris: And even if the legislation existed, I find it very difficult to conceive of any way of enforcing this on the farmer. It is easy for a government inspector to check industry. He walks into the factory with his sound level meter, but I don't think you're going to get inspectors going around checking on farm operations.

The manufacturers are going to have to help out and the farmer himself is going to have to use common sense in using devices that will cut down on his exposure to noise.

Peter Havard: Manufacturers are trying to hide the noise by hiding the farmer from it, but perhaps they should try to actually change the noise source. A completely new design of engine is needed, but it is not likely to happen in the near future. However, it may be the only solution to a complete elimination of this problem.

Women: A Challenge to Management

by Marilyn Rabin,
B. Sc. (F. Sc.) '75

Women all over the world have been misjudged, in one form or another ever since the emergence of "man", for copious reasons which were unjustifiable and pernicious. The liberation movement proclaiming this prejudice has successfully forced governments to make outstanding amendments to the constitution in favour of equal employment opportunities as well as equal pay for equal work. These are only two of the many changes already made. But is it possible to destroy an attitude that prevailed for so long that it was perfectly acceptable? By all means. Women have proven themselves to be as capable as men in all working situations. Women no longer present an ominous threat but rather a valuable resource that is yet to be harnessed to its fullest capacity. They are vital to the economic prosperity of the country.

The purpose of this article, is to prove that women are indispensable components of the labour force and present an unequivocal challenge to management.

Historical Progress

Most of Western man's intellectual inheritance, including ideas of philosophy, foundation of law and theology, stems from the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, and Israel.

Ancient Greece was known as a masculine society and the Greek city was described as "a men's club". The three essentials for life, described by Hesiod, a primitive poet, were a house, a wife, and an ox — in that order. Aristotle

asserted that subordination was woman's essential virtue. Furthermore, a woman was a misbegotten and defective male resulting from some deficiency in the male seed or the unfortunate effects of a moist south wind. (Aristotle).

Roman life did not overly emphasize masculine dominance as had the Greek. By the 3rd century B.C. the old strict forms of marriage were gradually superseded, women gained almost total control of their own property, and girls began to receive the same education as boys. Roman women even exercised a powerful influence in political affairs.

But, it was actually the early Roman code of law which had the most permanent influence. It clearly stated the position of the husband and father. He was the undisputed domestic judge, had complete control over his wife, could sell his children into slavery or civil bondage, could veto marriage and control divorce, as well as hold almost all the property rights belonging to anyone of the family. In time, these powers were abridged or discarded. Officially, however, a woman remained under perpetual guardianship due to her "lightmindedness".

Most of our knowledge of ancient Israel comes from the Old Testament. It clearly portrays a primitive and nomadic society where polygamy was practised, where women were inferior and her legal rights were few and difficult to enforce. Hebrew society also had the same contradictory attitude towards women as did the Greek and Roman. Her legal position was one of substantial dignity. Sarah and Rachel were described in the Old Testament as the respected wives of the patriarchs Abraham and Isaac. At the same time statements

such as "Blessed be God who has not made me a heathen, a slave, or a woman," can be found in the most respected rabbinical literature. In the Middle Ages the Catholic theology recognized two legitimate states of life for women — they could be wives or nuns. This new acceptance of the single woman by society had secular as well as religious consequences. Some nuns were amongst the most intelligent and capable women of their time, and their life in the convent allowed them freedom to develop their administrative abilities and business skills, and also gave them considerable prestige. The abbess Hilda of Whitby in the eighth century ruled a monastery and a convent, saw to the education of five bishops, and encouraged the scholar and historian Bede. Hildegard of Bingen was not only a scholar and playwright but also designed and **supervised** a proper plumbing system for her convent.

During the Renaissance and Reformation new currents of thought brought about several notable changes in the attitude to women. The humanists were interested in scholarship and education. Erasmus, the great Dutch humanist, encouraged the education of girls. But, only girls who held an exalted social position were eligible for education. On the other hand, the reformers, Calvin and Luther defended the subordination of women. Luther felt that women were created with large hips in order that they should stay home and sit on them!

Women in the 17th and early 18th century did not advance as one might expect. In England, which was predominantly Protestant, it was suggested that all the knowledge women needed was that of her household. Of course, the

country had its outstanding women, one of whom was Ann Fanshawe who managed the family affairs and finances while her husband was out fighting. She also bore 21 children — of whom only five survived — during 23 years of married life.

In France the education of girls was reasonably widespread, though not entirely intellectual. In a predominantly Catholic society, girls were permitted to learn Latin but neither Italian nor Spanish, since it was felt that there was ample adverse literature available to them in French. Basic arithmetic was necessary to handle the family budget. An understanding of legal terms and principles affecting everyday life was also important.

Middle class women in France exercised some professional activity. One unusual woman was Barbe Lequeux, who had the title of "plumber of Paris" and was in charge of the city waterworks (Fagniez, 1929).

The Industrial Revolution had its greatest impact in England. Revolutionary women preached liberty and equality. They called meetings and adopted a strong revolutionary pose. In France, Napoleon's attitude toward women had a great influence in the formation of the Code Napoleon. Napoleon commented that:

They (women) ought not to be considered as being on an equality with men, for they are, in reality, only machines for bearing children . . . Woman is our property . . . she bears us children . . . the wife is his property just as the fruit tree is the property of the gardener . . . To woman belong beauty, grace and the art of seduction . . . There

would have been a complete revolution in society if women had emerged from that state of dependence in which it is their duty to remain . . . One sex must subject to the other.

(Kircheisen, n.d.)

In the 19th century women were being even more restricted by both law and custom than they had been in previous centuries. The rich still maintained some freedom of action but were handicapped by the law. The middle class had to contend with the burden of Puritanism which did not permit them to have real contact with the outside world. The lower class women employed in factories and mines had to put up with appalling conditions and infinitesimal wages which had to be turned over to their husbands.

As restrictions increased and oppression was clearly evident, enthusiastic men and women began to reject the accepted doctrines and bring about change. This was the real beginning of the feminist movement. John Stuart Mill supported the movement fervently and wrote the major classic **The Subjection of Women**, published in 1869, in which he proclaimed that "the legal subordination of one sex to another is wrong in itself, and now one of the chief hindrances to human improvement; and that it ought to be replaced by a principle of perfect equality, admitting no power or privilege on the one side, nor disability on the other." (Rossi, 1973, p. 196).

French women's rights and suffrage were less successful. They did not receive the vote until 1944 as compared to the English who received the vote in 1928.

The first settlers who came to Canada brought with them attitudes toward women which had developed in Europe. Napoleon's Civil Code became the civil law of Quebec, though the criminal law was the same throughout the country. The Civil Code put many legal restrictions on Quebec women until quite recently.

In every country education is recognized as the key to improvement in the status of women. Yet equal opportunity, especially unrestricted admission to institutions of higher learning, did not come that easily to Canadian women. Though public elementary and secondary schools were co-educational, women were refused admission to "normal" school because no woman had ever been admitted. Martha Hamm Lewis appealed to the Lieutenant-Governor and was allowed to enter a normal school in Saint John, New Brunswick, in 1849. The principal was intensely alarmed and stipulated that Martha enter the classroom 10 minutes before the male students, sit alone at the back of the room, always wear a veil, leave the classroom five minutes before the end of the lesson and depart without speaking to any of the men. By 1867 women were admitted to training schools for teachers in most provinces, but no Canadian university had yet granted a degree to a woman. Grace Annie Lockhart was the first woman in the British Empire to graduate with a Bachelor of Science (Mount Allison) in 1875. McGill University accepted women in 1857 to the Faculty of Education, and Georgina Hunter was the first to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in 1885.

The Family

Farm

Published in the interests
of the farmers of the province
by the Quebec Department of
Agriculture.

Promotion of the Production and Sale of Certified Seed Potatoes (Lower St. Lawrence — Gaspé).

The aims of this assistance policy
are as follows:

1. to produce seed potatoes of
superior quality;
2. to increase Quebec's self-suf-
ficiency as regards seed po-
tatoes;
3. to lower their cost to the prov-
ince's growers of table and
processing potatoes.

Nature of assistance

The aid provided under this
policy consists in the payment of
subsidies for planting (depending
on the acreage) the 1975 — 1976
season's crop and selling the 1974-
75 season's crop of Elite classes,
as hereinafter described.

Subsidization rates

1. On planted acreages of the
following classes of seed potatoes:
Elite I: \$50 an acre; Elite II: \$25
an acre (Twenty 70 pound-bags
of seed potatoes: 1 acre.)
2. On sales (with certification tags
or certificates) of the following
classes of seed potatoes: Elite II:
\$1 per 75 lb; Elite III: 75¢ per
75 lb.

Beneficiaries

The following may qualify for
benefits under this policy: any
farmer, farming partnership or farm-
ing corporation in Region 1. pro-
vided that he (or it):

1. is under contract with the
Quebec Department of
Agriculture for the production
of certified seed potatoes and
has abided by all the provisions
of such contract;
2. is a member in good standing of
the Eastern Quebec Seed Potato
Producers' Association and has
met all its requirements.

Conditions and mode of payment

Subsidies will be paid by a single
cheque issued to each beneficiary
by the Department not later than
December 31, 1975, upon the
following conditions and in the
following manner:

1. Payment of any sum under this
program is conditional upon the
quality of the potatoes planted
or the resulting crop being in
conformity with the records of
the certification office and the
Destructive Insects and Pests
Act, SDOR 69-222, Part VI —
"Production and sale of certi-
fied seed potatoes", pp. 680 —
694.
2. The beneficiary's claim, duly
itemized and signed, must reach
the Quebec Department of
Agriculture's head office by
October 31, 1975.
3. The claim must be counter-
signed by the following persons:
— the president of the Eastern
Quebec Seed Potato Producers'
Association.
— The manager of the cooperative
agricultural association con-
cerned.
— The regional horticultural ad-
viser for region 1.
— The responsible authority at the
La Pocatière certification office.

Any producer under contract
whose crop has been certified but
who has not been able to sell it (or
part of it) may submit his case
for consideration.

Excerpt from the Agriculture De-
partment Act. Section 18a. Every
person who makes a false declara-
tion to obtain a grant, advance or
security for a loan contemplated
by this act or an amount payable
as assistance under a plan, program
or project, commits an offence
and is liable for the first offence
to a fine of \$500 and, for any
subsequent offence within two
years, to a fine of \$1,000.
Proceedings under this section
are taken under the Summary
Convictions Act (Chap. 35) and
Part II of that act applies thereto.

HIGH-MOISTURE CORN 1975

The Quebec Department of Agri-
culture wishes to make high-
moisture corn grown in southern
Quebec equally available to all
farmers in the province.

This policy is designed to relieve
corn growers of the temporary
surpluses that distort the market
at harvest time, ensure them of
better prices, save them drying
costs, and enable them to make
direct sales (thus eliminating
profits to intermediaries).

The Department will pay financial
assistance for the transportation

of high-moisture corn. This subsidy will be based on the amount by which the rate exceeds \$3 a ton and will be limited to the following maxima: regions 2 (Quebec), 3 (Beauce), and 5 (Sherbrooke) \$3/T; regions 1 (Rimouski), 9 (Noranda), and 12 (Saguenay-Lake St-John) \$8/T.

Excerpt from the agriculture department act Section 18a: Every person who makes a false declaration to obtain a grant, advance or security for a loan contemplated by this act or an amount payable as assistance under a plan, program or project, commits an offence and is liable for the first offence to a fine of \$500 and, for any subsequent offence within two years, to a fine of \$1,000.

Proceedings under this section are taken under the Summary Convictions Act (Chap. 35) and Part II of that act applies thereto.

REGIONAL SOYBEAN GROWING COMPETITIONS — 1975

A. Territory and Eligibility:

a) These competitions are open to farmers in the following agricultural regions: 4. Nicolet, 5. Sherbrooke, 6. St. Hyacinthe, 7. Châteauguay, 8. Ottawa Valley, 10. L'Assomption, 11. Trois-Rivières.

Each region must furnish the Plant Productions Division with a list of the counties where this crop is to be promoted.

The competitor must:

- b) sow at least five acres to this crop;
- c) sign and forward an entry application to his local agricultural office (before July 1st) or to the regional agricultural office before July 15, 1975;
- d) use one of the pedigreed varieties recommended by the Quebec Plant Productions Council.

B. Judging and Awards:

Scoring will be based on appearance, freedom from weeds, uniformity, maturity and probable yield.

The decision of the judges will be final and without appeal.

Prizes totaling \$2,500 will be awarded. Prizes awarded to winners in each region will be identical. The total number of awards in each region will be proportionate to the number of eligible participants following the first inspection.

A provincial gathering will climax this competition.

C. To encourage soybean growers to use inoculant of known quality, the Quebec Department of Agriculture will supply a limited number of them with enough of it to

inoculate the seed for five acres. The number of growers so supplied will be in proportion to the number of entries per region suitable for this crop.

Excerpt from the Agriculture Department Act Section 18a. Every person who makes a false declaration to obtain a grant, advance or security for a loan contemplated by this act or an amount payable as assistance under a plan, program or project, commits an offence and is liable for the first offence to a fine of \$500 and, for any subsequent offence within two years, to a fine of \$1,000.

Proceedings under this section are taken under the Summary Convictions Act (Chap. 35) and Part II of that act applies thereto.

AID FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PEDIGREE SEED — 1975

In view of the growing demand for high-quality seed specially recommended by the Quebec Plant Productions Council and of its high cost, the Department of Agriculture pays a subsidy of:

Four dollars per acre for the production of pedigreed seed which is to be graded and sealed

with a view to the production of such seed in Quebec by farmers who are members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

This subsidy is designed to interest seed growers in varieties of cereals, soybeans, timothy and red clover which are suitable for Quebec and recommended by the Quebec Plant Productions Council.

Together with his claim, the grower must submit to the Grants and Subsidies Division, 200 A, chemin Ste. Foy, Quebec, a copy of the crop certificate issued by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association showing the quantities graded and sealed by the Plant Products Division or any other body so authorized.

Growers whose crop cannot be sealed must submit the reason or reasons for study.

All claims concerning the 1975 crops must reach Quebec before September 1, 1976.

Excerpt from the Agriculture Department Act. Section 18a: Every person who makes a false declaration to obtain a grant, advance or security for a loan contemplated by this act or an amount payable as assistance under a plan, program or project, commits an offence and is liable for the first offence to a fine of \$500 and, for any subsequent offence within two years, to a fine of \$1,000.

Proceedings under this section are taken under the Summary Convictions Act (Chap. 35) and Part II of that act applies thereto.

SMALL FABIA BEANS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW CROPS AND FARMING PRACTICE

The Quebec Department of Agriculture is subsidizing the introduction of small faba beans and kale into the different agricultural regions and promoting new farming techniques. The Department's Plant Productions Division and regional agricultural offices may jointly choose what kinds, varieties, and practices (growing methods or pesticides) are to be promoted in the regions.

The aims of the subsidy are to:

- a) determine the behaviour of the crops and effectiveness of the new farming practices;
- b) assess the effect of soil and climate on the crops in question;
- c) contribute to the training and information of farmers;
- d) promote new crops and growing methods;
- e) diversify farming.

The subsidy will be restricted to a limited number of farmers chosen by officials of the Department.

The kinds and varieties of crop plants, treatments, and acreages allotted to each region will be decided jointly by the Plant Productions Division and the regional agricultural offices.

Interested farmers may apply at their agricultural information office. The amount of the grant takes into consideration the risk of losses involved and no further compensation will be made.

Grants will be as follows:

Small faba beans — \$100 an acre.
Kale — \$50 an acre.

Other crops or treatments — To be decided by the Plant Productions Division. From \$25 to \$100 an acre depending on the costs entailed. The grant will be limited to \$200 per farmer. Acreages sown or treated will be checked by officials of the Regional agricultural offices and laboratories division.

Payment of the grant will be made following recommendation by the Department's representatives and upon production of vouchers (originals of bills).

Excerpt from the Agriculture Department Act. Section 18a. Every person who makes a false declaration to obtain a grant, advance or security for a loan contemplated by this act or an amount payable as assistance under a plan, program or project, commits an offence and is liable for the first offence to a fine of \$500 and, for any subsequent offence within two years, to a fine of \$1,000.

Proceedings under this section are taken under the Summary Convictions Act (Chap. 35) and Part II of that act applies thereto.

Rapeseed — 1975

In order to encourage diversification of farm productions and, more specifically, the growing of rape (*Brassica campestris*) in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, the Department of Agriculture undertakes to contribute to the cost of transporting and drying rapeseed, at the following rates.

Grant

The amount of the Department's financial contribution will depend on the distance between the grower's farm and the place of treatment at Amos and takes into account the cost of shipment to the processing plant and other costs such as those of drying, screening, etc., as follows:

Miles	100 lb (screened)
0 - 15	\$1.75
15 - 30	\$1.85
30 - 45	\$1.95
45 - 60	\$2.05
Over 60	\$2.15

Payment of the grant

The grant is paid to the owner once a year upon submission of an application on the Department's official form accompanied by a declaration to the effect that he has finished his shipments for the current year.

Beneficiaries

Any producer who delivers his crop to the above-mentioned plant is eligible for the grant.

Excerpt from the Agriculture Department Act Section 18a: Every person who makes a false

declaration to obtain a grant, advance or security for a loan contemplated by this act or an amount payable as assistance under a plan, program or project, commits an offence and is liable for the first offence to a fine of \$500 and, for any subsequent offence within two years, to a fine of \$1,000.

Proceedings under this section are taken under the Summary Convictions Act (Chap. 35.) and Part II of that act applies thereto.

REGIONAL ALFALFA-GROWING Competitions 1975

The Quebec Department of Agriculture organizes an annual competition in each of Quebec's 12 agricultural regions. For this purpose, it allots \$15,000 in prize money.

Conditions:

1. Sow at least 10 acres to a single recommended variety of alfalfa.
2. Sow the alfalfa as a pure stand or mixed with timothy or brome but without a nurse crop unless otherwise advised by the coordinator.
3. Use a variety recommended by the Quebec Plant Productions Council.
4. Use the methods proposed by the Quebec Plant Productions Council and the Plant Productions Division.
5. Enroll at the local agricultural office before July 1, 1975.

Judging

Judging will be in two or three stages:

1. 45 days after seeding
2. 70 to 88 days after seeding,
3. At the end of the season in the region.

Scoring will be based on general appearance, density of stand and freedom from weeds and plant nutrient deficiencies, etc.

The decision of the judges is final and without appeal.

Prizes awarded to winners in each region are identical.

The total number of awards in each region will be proportionate to the number of eligible participants remaining following a first inspection.

Part of the total amount will be set aside for the organization of a provincial gathering.

Excerpt from the Agriculture Department Act. Section 18a. Every person who makes a false declaration to obtain a grant, advance or security for a loan contemplated by this under a plan, program or project, commits an offence and is liable for the first offence to a fine of \$500 and, for any subsequent offence within two years, to a fine of \$1,000.

Proceedings under this section are taken under the Summary Convictions Act (Chap. 35) and Part II of that act applies thereto.

QWI

It's Fair Time in Argenteuil

For the past three years **Jerusalem Bethany**, with a relatively small number of members, has taken part in a interesting and worthwhile project. We, with three other branches have taken over the refreshment booth at the annual Lachute Fair in June. The WI was asked to run the booth when the Quebec Farmers' Association and their wives, who had looked after it previously, found they were no longer able to do so.

The Fair is a four-day one and each participating branch looks after one day and organizes it to suit themselves. To get started, the booth representatives from each branch hold a meeting. A Treasurer is appointed and she is responsible for all deposits and looking after the cash box for the four days. A Purchaser is chosen who does all the buying necessary. Items are bought in bulk, where possible, to save costs.

At the booth, sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, drinks, chocolate bars, cigarettes, etc., are sold. Standard size scoops are used for the ice cream to try and insure uniformity from day to day. Appropriate signs are made to advertise the booth as a WI project. All the profits made are equally divided between the four Branches.

There are some very busy sessions at the booth. It is an open-air Fair, but if Mother Nature doesn't smile on us, it can be a washout!

However those who help enjoy the fellowship of co-members and seeing the familiar faces each year.

We feel we are making a worthwhile contribution to our community.

This year will be the 150th Anniversary of this Fair. We hope to see you at the booth, located at the entrance to the green ring, the second week in June.

Other members of this County are busy getting ready for the Lachute Fair in June. **Frontier** branch had a display of the prizes to be given in five categories in agricultural handicrafts — arts, crafts, and hobbies — Junior cooking and handicrafts, as well as flowers and flower arrangements. The prizes were purchased with Dominion Store register tapes. A large coffeemaker, also obtained in this way, was presented to a local church group. They will help serve refreshments at the Fair. A very enjoyable "fun night" and dance was held recently at the Legion Hall.

Mrs. Grace Morrow, Secretary-Treasurer of the Fair, was guest speaker at **Pioneer** and told of her work and the plans and efforts being made towards this year's Fair. Some of the members have offered to loan old costumes for the "Fashions of Yesteryear" show. This branch is sponsoring the Amateur Oil Painting category at the Fair this time.

An informative demonstration was given by Mr. Brian Gordon from Mme Georgett Beauty Salon on hair care and setting technique. Mr. Gordon answered many questions from his interested listeners. Their Roll Call was answered by giving a supper dish recipe.

The branch received a generous donation of drapery and upholstery material from Mrs. A. Trudel, who had been a speaker at an earlier meeting and heard about the Handi Bag project. The material made many very colourful bags, which were filled and brought in to the April meeting.

Brownsburg branch is also filling Handi Bags and each member donated towards 21 bags, which will be filled at a later meeting. They gave donations to UNICEF and CARE.

Arundel held a blind auction and gave a donation to UNA. One member was presented with a Life Membership pin. They will host the Annual County Convention this year.

Program plans for the year were drawn up at the **Dalesville-Louisa** meeting and articles were read on such topics as "Why women don't go on strike" and "Tropical diseases rising in Canada". They also plan to fill Handi Bags.

Lachute W.I. welcomed a new member. They gave donations to the Laurentian Elementary School lunch program, the school year book and the Home and School Association for School Fair. They will be catering for a 50th wedding Anniversary in May — a good way to raise funds, but a lot of work.

"Name a Canadian river" was the Roll Call answered by **Lakefield** members. They accepted an invitation to attend a special meeting in June at **Frontier** and also made plans for the Lachute Fair and the W.I. conventions.

Carrot and Pineapple Muffins

1½ cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 eggs, beaten
⅔ cup cooking oil
1 cup finely grated carrot
½ cup crushed pineapple
1 teaspoon vanilla.

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix together first 5 ingredients. Combine eggs and oil in another bowl. Add dry ingredients, a little at a time, mixing lightly. Fold in carrot, pineapple and vanilla. Pour into greased or lined muffin tins and place in 350° oven. Bake for 25 minutes. (I am told they are really delicious!)

Down Through the Years

In the County of Montcalm the QWI has only one branch and that is **Rawdon**. Our nearest QWI neighbours are in Argenteuil County, approximately 50 miles away. Our branch was founded in 1934 by Miss Lucy Daly, a retired nurse, who was hostess to Mrs. Alfred Watt, founder of the WI in Britain, during the second world war, when a number of members had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Watt. Mrs. James Skelly was the first President of the Branch. In 1938 Mrs. E. Hubbard (nee Knox-Copping) became President. The following September, 1939, application was made for a Red Cross Branch in conjunction with the QWI, and this branch was one of the first to organize. Mrs. Hubbard was a member of the Provincial Division and organized Red Cross Branches in

Joliette and Terrebonne. The WI members knitted and sewed for the Red Cross for many years. (The blind mother of one member alone made 105 pairs of socks.) We also covered many miles collecting for Red Cross campaigns. Mrs. Hubbard was Liaison Officer for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and was able to pass on hints and information to WI members. She also assisted in issuing Wartime Registration cards, Rawdon being the office for a very large area.

Our first community project was in 1935 when the WI bought land and set up a tennis court for the young village people. After a few years when this was not used, the land was resold and the money from the sale was put into Bell Telephone shares. The dividends from these shares have, for the past 25 years, made our School Scholarship possible. This is given annually to the student graduating from Grade 11 with the highest marks over 70 per cent. This scholarship is in memory of Dr. Newton Smiley, a beloved local doctor.

For many years Rawdon WI sponsored a Dental Clinic for school children. It was discontinued when free dental care became available through the clinic at Joliette Hospital. The group's founder, Miss Daly, for many years dispensed free cod liver oil and lice control preparation for school children. Hot soup was also provided at the school. Countless A.V. aids and equipment have been donated to the school as well as financing the lighting for the school rink and paying for swimming lessons for a number of school children.

In 1950 a Junior WI was formed with a membership of 12 teenagers. The girls were taught leathercraft and sewing by Mrs. Hubbard.

Our members over the years have had courses in dressmaking, millinery, home nursing and French. Some members attended "Facts, Fingers and Fun" at Macdonald College.

Our local sick and needy have been aided, and quilts have been sent to flood victims. Financial assistance was given for three years to Spera Foundation Drug Rehabilitation which was situated in Rawdon but has now moved to the Eastern Townships. Through "Save a Family" we are sending financial aid to a family in India. Each year we send Christmas parcels of toys and clothes to Grise Fiord and to Nain, Labrador. A Christmas party has been given for the past two years for Senior Citizens who live alone. This summer we are helping to send local children to a camp for emotionally disturbed children.

In 1971 Rawdon WI won first Prize at the Drama Competition at Convention and in 1972 we won second prize. We are not a large branch. Over the years our membership has been approximately 20, and we now have six Life Members. We hope to be able to continue our work for Home and Country for many years to come.

An Active County

The serving of "Junk Foods" in school cafeterias has been a subject of concern to the **Stanstead County** WI members. They have prepared reports on the foods supplied in the Regional School

cafeteria and have sent briefs and resolutions re the improving of same to the High School.

During the year many projects were undertaken, i.e. dog clinic for rabies and distemper shots; filled Handi Bags; collected for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and for the Red Cross. They have remembered the sick and shut-ins with cards, flowers, and visits, and they gave Christmas baskets to elderly people, most living alone. They also sent gifts and oranges to two homes for children.

Some subjects heard and discussed at meetings concerned safety in the home, increase of V.D. in the younger age group, 11 - 14 years, and the treatment of disease by diet and exercise rather than medication.

They sent a letter to a local council concerning the licensing of bikes so safety regulations and inspections could be more readily applied.

Beebe branch, as a project for International Women's Year, is placing the Town Clock in a new location. The building in which the clock is presently located is being sold.

Their Roll Call was to display pieces of handicraft and needlework. They saw a film by a member on Rome and the Vatican. A money donation was made to a home for retarded children for a proposed dental clinic.

Ayers Cliff branch sold daffodils for the benefit of the Canadian Cancer Society. They have pieced and quilted a beautiful quilt which will be sold for funds.

Hatley branch hold an annual Fair in May. They have all kinds of handicrafts, delicious foods, and plants to sell. This Fair is getting bigger every year and is a good way of getting publicity.

Hatley Centre entered a float once again in the Dominion Day parade and have presented the play they took to the Provincial Convention in '74 on several occasions. **Stanstead North** have also presented their play at various public events.

A Fair that's Growing

From its inception in 1948, the School Fair program, sponsored by the **Bonaventure County** Women's Institutes and supported, at that time, by the Port Daniel, Marcil, and Shigawake branches has been a continued success.

Each year about 60 students have received seeds, gardens were judged, exhibits picked up and displayed at the Bonaventure County Agricultural Society, Division A, Fair. Over the years the School Fair Building has been a centre of interest and, best of all, were the cash prizes amounting sometimes to nearly \$10 for the most ambitious children. Incidentally, the winner of the best garden in 1948 was Lowell Watt, now a regular exhibitor at the adult fair, whose three sons had gardens in the 1974 competition. Like father like son!

During the last two years, an additional attraction for school fair participants has been a treat of ice cream, provided by the Laval Ice Cream Company, through the generosity of Mr. Urbain Landry.

In 1974, in an effort to combat

the high cost of living, a new twist was added. Following a suggestion made by the Marcil WI, the local agricultural society sponsored a class for adult gardeners. Approximately 50 gardens were judged by the agronomist, Miss July Wallwork, and resulted in 21 new exhibitors from seven municipalities. These new members won over 50 prizes in the vegetable and handicraft sections and many people were heard to say: "Wait till next year: I'll bring more vegetables and join in the animal classes, too."

Plans for the 1975 Fair include the Agricultural Society's project of sending out brochures early in the season to arouse interest among prospective exhibitors. They also hope to include new categories of exhibits: potted plants and handicrafts designed to fit also in the Quebec Women's Institutes and Expo-Quebec exhibitions.

The Society welcomes new ideas to incorporate into the Fair and will cordially receive both exhibitors and spectators at Shigawake on August 28, 29, 30.

Dear WI Members:

Spring is with us and, as I write this, crocuses are blooming and tulip shoots in the garden are growing fast.

Reports show that everyone is getting busy for handicraft competitions, school and county fairs, etc. A busy time is ahead, but better busy than bored.

Most of the branches are filling Handi Bags. One branch raised the money to buy articles for the bags with a white elephant sale; some

donate the money and articles are bought; others each fill a bag with articles given by members and friends.

Easter and other spring functions were observed. Gifts were sent to homes and cards to those who couldn't get out. Sunshine funds were raised by one group with a mystery prize drawing. **Canterbury** appointed three members to visit three Senior Citizen homes. **Inverness** tacked a quilt for a home for the elderly and **Kinnear's Mills** donated jams and jellies. **Granby Hill** had an Easter bonnet contest and their Roll Call was answered with a recipe for Easter or one using maple syrup. They heard an interesting article by a member's daughter, who is a nurse on a Plastic Burn Unit in Kingston Hospital, Ontario. They also enjoyed hearing the highlights of a member's trip to Florida.

A speaker at another meeting was a member who had taken her training as a Nursing Assistant. She stressed the careful supervision that was given to their practical work. She found it a rewarding experience and got to know so many people while working in the hospital.

Discussions have been held in several places concerning the bill closing small abattoirs. Mr. John Nichol, a local member of a meat market in Lennoxville, spoke on these regulations and on the effect it will have on the consumer. A letter of protest is to be sent to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture re this by the local WI. This branch enjoyed a tour, recently, of the new fire station. They have also signed a petition to the City of Sherbrooke asking for lower

fares for Senior Citizens on the city buses. Other WI groups are also interested in this.

Members have been learning more about the metric system — how it is applied in agriculture. One branch answered the roll call with their waist measurements in metric — seemed enormous! Celsius is causing some confusion. Thermometers that show both have been suggested as one solution — but no doubt we will be more familiar with it in time.

Weaving is becoming more popular and most of us are learning more about it. Mrs. Fairsbairn from Cookshire spoke at a recent **Bury** meeting and showed members samples of her yarn and work which included bedspreads, place mats, skirts, and belts.

Stanbridge East learned about the advantages and disadvantages of a dialysis machine. A speaker's husband used one in their home. She explained its uses and function. This branch has written a play for the Tweedsmuir contest. They are sponsoring a child for two weeks at a camp for retarded children.

An interesting talk was given by Mrs. MacKittrich at **Belvidere** on how welfare handles the distribution of clothes, food, and fuel to many needy families.

Alan Randall, formerly of the Montreal Gazette, and now editor of the Huntingdon Gleaner, spoke to **Hemmingford** on news and how it is edited and prepared for the press and how a country weekly paper has more personal news

compared with that headlined in the daily city papers.

Howick heard Mrs. R. A. Wilson describe the work done at the Craft and Recreation centre in Huntingdon. This centre is open to all and has members from all ages, both male and female, who meet once a week for crafts, cards — bridge and 500 — social help, fellowship, and friendship. The branch is making a scrapbook to exchange with a group in PEI. This being International Women's Year, each member read a short article of interest to women.

Contests and quizzes are always fun. Some examples were: unscrambling jumbled letters forming the surnames of county and branch members; matching facts, words, phrases or places with the right province, i.e., "What is Screech and to which province does it relate?" (No trouble with that one — a homemade booze in Newfoundland.) Matching a numbered flag with the province it represented presented no problem with our own province but others were not so easy.

Maple sugar fudge was judged in one Institute and later sold by auction for funds. **Wright** had a "surprise box" contest. They recently honoured their Secretary at a St. Patrick's tea.

Some WI groups had displays and contests with prizes for the best recycled "throw away" and many useful articles have been made. They range from braided rugs, a footstool made from large juice cans and covered with cloth, waste paper basket from an ice

cream container, teddy bear from an old dressing gown to sparkling necklaces from melted and baked plastic pill containers.

Spooner Pond had a contest on palindromes (words that spell the same backwards and forwards). They brought articles in for sale and welcomed three new members.

A home for retarded children is in need of a dental clinic and many groups have been helping to make this a possibility with their donations. Others have helped their Sunday Schools, Bursary funds, etc. One gave a donation toward expenses for two music students attending a musical exchange trip to Ontario and **Valcartier** gave their annual donation toward each of the four cemeteries in the district. Their Convener of Citizenship read an article on places of interest and entertainment available on a family trip across the country. Anyone who has travelled across the country will appreciate this sort of information, especially if there are children with you.

Attics are fascinating places, particularly now that so much is coming into use again after being stored away for years. Some items need a lot of treatment or repairs, others need just a little dusting. **Austin** learned how old trunks could be converted into tables, etc. Besides being useful, they can add character to a room. Members also got some gardening tips and heard a report on a Florida trip.

Various activities planned for the spring include card parties, bridal showers, birthday parties, County variety entertainment programs, sales of plants, slips, and seeds, and catering for a wedding reception.

Life Membership pins have been presented to three ladies from **Ascot** branch — Mrs. L. Butler, Mrs. Wm. Mitchell, and Mrs. H. Robertson. The Country President Mrs. S. Parker said, on presenting the pins, that the time, energy, and ability that these members had given to the work of the WI had won them this honour.

The members answered the Roll Call with a three-minute talk on a subject drawn. One of their members, Mrs. A. Hatcher, has 15 consecutive years of perfect attendance at meetings.

Nine members from the **Richmond Young Women** branch have perfect attendance for the past year.

Food and budgets continue to interest us and we welcome hints and recipes and booklets on budget menus and shopping leaflets that can help us in any way.

Demonstrations have included "how to begin a patchwork cushion", broom stick lace, etc. Articles made for the handicraft contests have been displayed at

meetings so there should be a nice display at the Convention this year.

So far we have heard from three branches that are entering plays written for the Tweedsmuir contest.

We are sorry to hear that **Scotstown** branch has had to disband after 40 years. We do hope that they can either join up with another branch or later be able to rejoin.

Mrs. J. Robertson,
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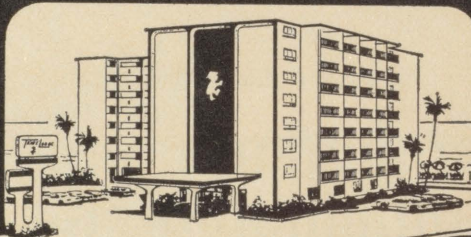
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